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FEMA

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APRIL 7, 2010 IS DEADLINE FOR ELIGIBLE PRIVATE NON-PROFITS TO APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations that provide government-like services such as education, communications services, fire protection and medical care and were affected by the severe winter weather, flooding, mudflows and debris flows that occurred between Jan. 17 and Feb. 6 have until April 7 to apply for supplemental disaster grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“Time is running out for Private Non-Profit organizations and other eligible agencies to submit their Request for Public Assistance to the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA),” said Federal Coordinating Officer Michael H. Smith of FEMA. “We want to ensure that every eligible organization that was involved in response or suffered damages has every opportunity to apply for assistance.”

Smith and State Coordinating Officer Matthew Bettenhausen of Cal EMA urged PNPs that haven’t yet submitted a Request for Public Assistance to do so as soon as possible.

“We recognize that the costs incurred by many private non-profits in responding to the storms has placed an additional burden on their budgets in these difficult economic times. That’s why it’s critical that eligible agencies submit their Requests for Public Assistance as soon as possible and no later than April 7,” said Bettenhausen.

By law, private non-profits, government agencies and other eligible entities have 30 days from the date of major disaster declaration to submit their Request for Public Assistance to FEMA via the State. On March 8, at the request of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, President Barak Obama declared a major disaster for Calaveras, Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Siskiyou counties.

All interested PNPs should begin the process by applying to Cal EMA. At the time of application, FEMA will determine if the PNP provides essential governmental services. If the PNP meets the criteria, FEMA will then classify those essential governmental services as either *critical or non-critical*.

Eligible PNP facilities providing critical services may immediately apply for a grant from FEMA’s PA program. Some examples of PNP facilities in this category are those that provide power, water, sewer, wastewater treatment, communications, emergency medical care, and fire or rescue services.

Eligible PNP facilities providing non-critical services will be referred to the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a low-interest disaster loan to cover property damages. If the SBA cannot approve a low interest disaster loan or meet all of the PNP's needs, SBA will refer the PNP back to FEMA. However, the PNP applicant is responsible for re-applying to FEMA for assistance. Some examples of PNP facilities in this category are food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, youth programs, YMCAs and YWCAs. PNPs with any questions may contact SBA toll free at (800) 659-2955.

To apply for assistance the PNP must file a Request for Public Assistance (RPA), FF-90-49 and a PNP Facility Questionnaire FF 90-121 to FEMA through the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). For information on the forms and a local contact person the PNP should call Cal EMA at 626-431-3257.

Forms must be returned to FEMA by April 7, 2010.

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